



# *The Moreton Grange Golf Society*

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2006

Welcome to the August issue of the Newsletter.

Before we get stuck into the main part of the Newsletter, many questions have been asked of 'Club with no Balls' about the picture at the top of our Newsletter. Apart from the obvious "no they are not a set of short shaft clubs taylor made for our very own Chairman" it has to be said that, "yes, we realise that there is no driver or wood shown", "no, we have no idea where you could purchase a set of clubs like these", and "so what is wrong with a set of only 4 clubs, many of our more distinguished members revel in the fact that they can play a half decent round when only having a few clubs at their disposal". Unfortunately the truth is for less interesting, as the above represents the last few remaining clubs from our illustrious Captains first golf set after all the others suffered various degrees of near fatal abuse / injury following a particularly long, bad and loudly cursed round.

## **Open Tournament**

Following the completion of the second most prestigious golfing tournament on the Wirral (the first being the forth coming Moreton Grange Challenge Competition) there have been many reports of the success of the event, and many tales told over a few pints. No tale has probably been longer than that of our own local legend, namely Dave O'Rourke (Steward extraordinair) who has regaled all those who are willing to listen about his treasured autographed shirt. Many of you who watched the tournament live will have witnessed the many occasions when, just as the great and good were lining up for that crucial shot they were distracted by the requests from the bunker / side etc of "can I have your autograph". Peter Alliss was heard to mutter during the closing stages of the Tournament that if it wasn't for Tiger Woods being partially deaf and thus not being susceptible to the untimely interruptions from the Steward with the tartan cap, he wouldn't have been where he was on the final fairway.

In true tradition many of the Societies members visited the course during the tournament, though most of them will not have seen more than our Chairman who, due to his vertically challenging condition, was able to push to the front of the packed fairways by biting the ankles of those who wouldn't give way to a seemingly innocent child carrying a couple of bottles of Beck's.

In celebration of the fact that the Open has taken place on the Wirral, the Society has been presented with a new trophy by an anonymous smoking Guinness drinking benefactor. This trophy bears an uncanny resemblance to that being hunted by the police after a certain T.Wood's car was the victim of a stop and grab raid outside the Grange Public House. When tracked down our benefactor stated that any resemblance was only circumstantial.

## Society Match Day

The Fourth fixture of the summer saw us travel to the distant reaches of North Wales, Prestatyn on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006. Unfortunately the local reporter did not report anything so there's little that can be said re the day, apart from the that allegedly Dave Evans made is own way their, and found the place (though the word on the underground is that he caught the train)

Anyway, following a very enjoyable day of golf on what proved to be a very playable course the final results of the match were:

'Medal';-	Scott Hudson (69 net)
Stapleford Winner;-	Scott Hudson (39 points)
Longest Drive;-	Steve Galt
Nearest the Pin;-	Pete Conner
Match day Pairs;-	Scott Hudson & Mike Belliss (44 points)



## Summer Season pairs Comp

The Competition continues a pace, with reasonably clear leaders of Hayhurst / Conner closely by the pack of Vaughan / Taylor / McNay / Crawford / O'Rorke and Smythe in full flow. The trend continues in that those Pairs where both players play are doing better than those where only one plays, which just goes to show that it doesn't matter how bad you are, so long as your better playing partner turns up and plays, that you can get away with it.

Remember;-

- the idea is to get a lower score on any particular hole than the Minimum Score which is given on your score card for each match.
- that the final result is determined on your end of season handicaps (including any nobling) so there's still all to play for.

## Awarding of Trophies

As well as the monthly Society Trophies that are awarded to those lucky B!!!!d's who happen to play their best golf on a Society day (and not on a range hitting day like the rest of use), we thought it would be a good idea to remind you of all the other Society trophies that are available on a seasonal basis, just in case you thought you could have a chance of picking one of these up instead.

### 1) CMP Cup

To be a Texas Scramble Day, the 4 members of the winning team to be awarded mini cups and names on trophy which the Society would retain. Teams to be decided on day, using 4 'seeded' groups. Date Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

### 2) Charter Cup

The Charter Cup is to be for an Invitation Day, based on Medal Play and with any number of guests invited. This is likely to be the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 at Eaton Golf Course. The winning person to be awarded mini Trophy and name on Cup which the Society would retain.

### 3) Challenge Cup

The Challenge Cup is to be for match against an opposing team, (Leasowe Golf Club). The winning Team Name on trophy which the Society would retain. Teams to be decided by the Captain and Vice Captain. Date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### 4) SAZ Trophy

The winner of the Summer Season Knockout Tournament – (you may be out of this already)

### 5) **Summer Pairs Trophy**

The eclectic round consisting of the lowest score for each hole achieved by the pair over the Summer Season is applied to the Hoylake course at the end of the season, using the end of season 'Nobbled' Handicaps for the players. The highest Stapleford Pairs score win the trophy. (A bit random on the grounds that not actually played on Hoylake course, and pair can play sh!!e with just a few good holes over the season and still win – but this goes for us all)

### 6) **Best Golfer**

A measure of performance over the whole season. Average of best 5 Net scores over summer season based on non hobbled handicap. Then deduct one shot for each 'Nearest The Pin' and 'Longest Drive' Trophy won. Winner is the person with the best Net Score averaged over the whole season. To qualify, player must have taken part in at least 5 matches over the 7 match Summer Season.

### 7) **Players Player**

This would be voted on at the end of the last Society Day by all Society members by secret ballot; (postal votes for those who can't attend the do).

### 8) **Most Improved Player.**

The winner to be decided by the Captain and the Vice Captain.

So there you have it, plenty of opportunities for you to clap other members enthusiastically at the Summer Season Awards Evening as they collect those awards that you only just missed.

## **Society Summer Handicaps**

Following the last Committee meeting it has been agreed that the handicaps are to remain as assigned at the start of the season, adjusted as necessary in accordance with the Moreton Grange Nobling system. However, at the end of the season they will be reviewed in light of each individuals performance over the summer season, and the intention is to assign new Handicaps for the Winter season. In light of this new announcement 'Club with No Balls' had no bright ideas on how to play to ensure the best tactical handicap is achieved, however he would predict that there is likely to be a lot of fun / arguing / heated discussions over several pints when the new handicaps are announced.



## **Summer Knockout Tournament**

Prestatyn saw the nearly last day for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round matches to be played, however due to holiday commitments very few, if any, matches were actually played on the Society Day. We are now down to the last four, with more than a few surprises emerging. Dave 'Iron Lung' O'Rorke continued to confound all the critics and came through having beaten last years winner Ian 'But my names' already on it) Taylor. Dave obviously in practice for his role of lead advisor to the professionals at that other less important tournament, the Open. Next to see the wheels come off their golf trolley was Ralph 'Motormouth' Vaughan who lost to Carl 'That will show him' Hayhurst. (Better to lose to some one of Carls' calibre Ralph, than a rank outsider like last year) An even more ~~down right~~ ~~lucky surprising~~ against form win was Alan 'that was my best game ever' Harding who saw off our Vice Captain Neil 'oh my god' McNay. The last quarter final finally saw the emergence of Graham 'why can't I have another bye' Coupe against Alan 'why can't I have one bye' Bennett. This match must have been the only one (so far) this season to be played in the rain and wind. Graham, whilst putting up a great defence, was obviously suffering from lack of match practice and came good too late through the round to do any good)

4 players now go forward to the semi finals; these matches must be played on or before the next Society day at Aldersley Green on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006. What with all the favourites (well, those who you thought might have gone all the way at some stage in their lives) by the way side we have the bookies quaking in their boots as we march on to the Grand Final.

## **The Monthly Golfing Joke**

### **Some people Take Golf too Seriously**

Mike Sweeney (name has been changed to protect the innocent) has a week off and decides to play a round of golf every day. First thing Monday morning, he sets off on his first round and soon catches up to the person in front. He sees that this is a woman and, as he catches up to her on a par 3, that, in fact, she's very attractive. He's interested and suggests that they play the rest of the round together. She agrees and a very close match ensues. She turns out also to be a very talented golfer and she wins their little competition on the last hole.

He congratulates her in the parking lot then offers to give her a lift when he sees she doesn't have a car. All in all it's been a highly enjoyable morning. On the way to her place, she thanks him for the morning's company and competition and says she hasn't enjoyed herself so much on the course for a long time. "In fact," she says, "I'd like you to pull over so I can show you how much I appreciated everything." He pulls over, they kiss and she gives him the best in-car oral entertainment he's ever had.

The next morning he spies her at the first tee and suggests they play together again. He's actually quite competitive and slightly peeved that she beat him the previous day. Again they have a magnificent day, enjoying each other's company and playing a tight, competitive round of golf. Again she pips him at the last, again he drives her home and again she shows her appreciation. This goes on all week, with her beating him narrowly every day. This is a sore point for his male ego but, nevertheless, in the car home from their Friday afternoon round, he tells her that he has had such a fine week that he has a surprise planned: dinner for two at a fancy candle-lit restaurant followed by a night of passion in the penthouse apartment of a posh hotel.

Surprisingly, she bursts into tears and says she can't agree to this. He can't work out what the fuss is about but eventually she admits the reason. "You see," she tearfully sobs, "I'm a transvestite." He is aghast. He swerves violently off the road, pulls the car to a screeching halt and curses madly, overcome with emotion. "I'm sorry," she repeats.

"You bastard," he screams, red in the face, "You cheating bastard. You've been playing off the red tees all week!!

## **The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in**

### **This Month - Putting Techniques (not quite the R&A Way)**

As they say in the trade, Drive for Show - Putt for Dough, or as we say in the Grange Golf Society, Drive for Show (ing yourself up) - Putt for Dough (a deer, a female deer who can do better than you can)

#### **Nonchalant Putts**

A player confronted with an unconceded putt of three feet or less may elect to approach the ball in a deliberately casual and unstudied manner and hit it toward the hole with a one-handed putting stroke using either of two approved perfunctory putting methods.

1. He may knock the ball toward the hole with a one-handed putting stroke using either the front or back of the putter. If the ball fails to enter the hole but the player is able to sink the putt with no more than two additional rapid "taps" made while the ball is still in motion, the putt is deemed to have been sunk with a single continuous multipart stroke executed in a staccato fashion rather than multiple separate attempts.

2. He may adopt a putting posture in which he crouches over the hole with his hand behind the cup and drags the ball back toward it with a one-handed pulling stroke. Once the ball touches his palm, it is deemed to have been holed out, even if the ball never actually enters the cup and the player is obliged to move his hand a short distance away from the hole in the direction of the oncoming ball to ensure solid contact

## **Negligent Putt**

If a player makes a hasty, tentative, or ill-considered stroke at a putt of six feet or less, and it is obvious from the moment the ball leaves the face of his putter that it will miss the hole by a wide margin, he may replay the putt, without assessing a stroke, provided he rakes the ball back to its original position before it stops rolling and then, reassuming his stance, conveys by the gravity of his demeanour and the painstaking deliberation with which he addresses the ball that, in sharp contrast to his earlier perfunctory and insincere effort, this re-putt will be undertaken with the unparalleled care and concentration that befits a serious attempt to propel the golf ball into the absolute dead centre of the hole.

No charge for these gems from the Moreton Grange Golf Academy.

## **Rule(s) of the Month – Putting**

There is a lot of time and energy spent during the gentle game of golf on the art of putting. The following may or may not help increase / reduce the time spent there, but they should make what time you spend there more fun.

Rule 14.2 In making a stroke a player must not:-

- a. accept physical assistance or protection from the elements; *(in other words, if your that weak, or the whether is that bad, you should not be playing golf)* or
- b. allow his caddie, his partner or his partners caddie to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of play or the line of putt behind the ball. *(in other words, ask a third party to come and watch the roll of the ball for you)*

Rule 16-2 When any part of the ball overhangs the lip of the hole, the player is allowed enough time to reach the hole without unreasonable delay and an additional ten seconds to determine whether the ball is at rest. *(in other words, walk the scenic route at Iron Lungs pace and then count to ten very slowly, thus hopefully allowing enough time for the earth to move for you and your ball to drop off the lip into the hole without any further use from your club)*

Rule 17-1 Before making a stroke from anywhere on the course the player may have the flagstick attended, removed or held up to indicate the position of the hole. *(in other words, if you want to tire your opponent out when playing a two ball match, ask him to attend the flag whenever you make a stroke, even if its from the tee on a particularly long par 5)*

## **Next Society Day Out**

The next Society match is at Aldersley Green on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August, and the one after that is at Northrap on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1245 tee time. Please contact Society Fixtures Secretary, Andy Harvey (07768 271 822) to guarantee a tee.

***Membership Forms available from the bar at the Grange – New Members Welcome***